



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

For Immediate Release October 9, 2013
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COUNTY BOARD BUDGET BLAST: OCTOBER 9, 2013

The Milwaukee County Board Committee on Finance, Personnel and Audit today heard testimony from many perspectives of a very complex issue as it continued meetings on the 2014 Recommended County Budget related to Health and Human Services departments.

The biggest topic of conversation was proposed changes to the delivery of the County's mental healthcare services. The proposed budget would continue the transition of care to a "community-based services" plan to private organizations under a new Behavioral Health Community Services Department.

More than a dozen people either testified to the Committee or held signs in the meeting room to voice their support for BHD services. Their main concerns were what might happen to patients and workers if the transitions occurred too quickly, and the worry that the community does not yet have the capacity to serve the most vulnerable patients.

There were more than four hours of testimony and discussion between Supervisors, the public and the administration. Supervisors asked questions about how these changes would impact patient safety and community safety as well as the how the cost to care for patients in the community compares to the savings from reducing in-patient capacity.

Thursday the Committee will hear from the County Department of Transportation on issues including the highly-publicized transit/paratransit systems.

- To view the County Board's budget overview, please click [here](#).
- To view the schedule of budget meetings, see the agendas and watch a live online feed, please click [here](#).
- The County Board of Supervisors will hold its annual public hearing on the 2014 Recommended Budget on November 4, 2013, at 4PM at the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center. For more information, please click [here](#).

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